has been provided to all State Government Secretariats & UT Administrations as well as 587 districts in the country.

DIT had also taken up an initiative to set up Community Information Centres (CICs) in the hilly, far-flung areas of the country to bring the benefits of ICT to the people for socio-economic development of these areas. Under this initiative, DIT has supported 487 CICs at block level in the North Eastern States of Arunchal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Megalaya, Mizoram Nagaland, Tripura and Sikkim; 135 CICs at block level in the State of Jammu & Kashmir; 41 Vidya Vahini CICs in the Andaman & Nicobar Island and 30 Vidya Vahini CICs at Lakshadweep Island.

DIT has also conceptualized and setup four pilot Rural IT Centres (Samadhan Kendras) at Tadepalligudem in Andhra Pradesh, Chitrakoor & Ujjain in Madhya Pradesh and Ramanathapuram in Tamil Nadu for dissemination of information to the villagers.

NIC jointly with the Maharashtra State Government have implemented "Warana Wired Village Project" to facilitate integrated development of the cooperative movement at grass-root level. This project connects 70 contiguous villages around Warana in the Kolhapur and Sangli districts of Maharashtra.

DIT recently have issued Guidelines to provide suport to State Governments to establish State Wide Area Networks (SWANs) from the State Headquarters up to the Block level with a minimum bandwidth capacity of 2 Mbps. SWANs connectivity would be progressively leveraged to provide services electronically to citizens at the village level by extending its reach through wireless and other technologies relevant for the last mile.

Deptt. of I.T. has now prepared draft guidelines to facilitate establishment of Common Services Centres (CSCs) in rural areas across the country. It is proposed to promote these centres through village level entrepreneurs adopting Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode. Such Centres would have flexibility to offer a mix of services (from Government & Non-Government including localized services) that may be needed by the local community.

Modernization of telegraph services in N.E. region

3111. SHRI DWINJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any initiative for the modernization and upgradation of telegraph services in the various States of North-Eastern Region;

(b) if so, the details thereof, district-wise;

(c) whether any budgetary allocation have been made for this purpose during the current year; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) District-wise details of modernization of telegraph services in the States of North Eastern region are given in the enclosed Statement (*See* below).

(c) No budgetary allocation has been made during the current year, since the project has been completed long back.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

Statement

District-wise details of modernization of telegraph serivces in NE States

I Assam Telecom Circle :—

Details of Modern Equipment provided to modernise Telegraph Services in Assam Telecom Circle (District-wise).

1. One SFMSS 64 Lines system provided at CTO Guwahati.

2. 9 EKBCs provided at Bongaigaon, Dibrugarh, Guwahati CTTC, Guwahati, Karimganj, Nagaon, Silchar, Tejpur and Tinsukhia.

3. Bureau Fax and other terminal equipment *i.e.* SFMSS/EKBC ports, ETPs/FTs etc. provided as under:

S.No.	Name of District	No. of SFMSS Ports	No. of EKBC	No. of B.Fax	No. of ETPs & FTs
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Dibrugarh	1	14	2	7
2	Tinsukia	1	14	2	3
3	Cachar	1	14	1	2

1	2	3	4	5	6
4	Karimganj	0	14	1	1
5	Hailakandi	0	1	1	0
6	N.C. Hills	1	0	0	0
7	Jorhat	2	14	1	5
8	Sibsagar	1	3	1	2
9	Golaghat	0	9	1	1
10	Kamrup	9	28	6	7
11	Nagaon	1	14	2	2
12	Morigaon	0	2	1	1
13	Karbi Anglong	1	1	1	1
14	Sonitpur	2	14	2	10
15	Darrang	1	0	2	0
16	N. Lakhimpur	1	0	1	1
17	Dhemaji	1	0	1	0
18	B. Charali	1	0	0	0
19	Bongaigaon	1	14	1	1
20	Kokrajhar	1	1	1	0
21	Dhubri	1	1	1	1
22	Goalpara	1	0	1	1
23	Nalbari	2	2	1	1
24	Barpeta	2	2	1	1
25	Chirang	0	0	0	0
26	Baska	0	0	0	0
27	Udalguri	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL:	31	160	32	48

II North East-I Telecom Circle:—

Details of Modern Equipment provided to modernize telegraph services in North East-I Telecom Circle (District-wise)

(1) One SFMSS 32-Lines System provided at Shillong.

(2) 4EKBCs/TFCs provided at Agartala, Shillong and Tura.

(3) Bureau Fax and other terminal equipment *i.e.* SFMSS/EKBC Ports, ETPs/FTs etc. provided as under:—

S.No.	Name of District	No. of SFMSS Ports	No. of EKBC	No. of B.Fax	No. of ETPs & FTs
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Agartala	1	2	1	4
2	Radhakishorepur	-	1	1	1
3	Kailashahar	-	2	1	1

1	2	3	4	5	6
4	Aizawal	1	-	2	2
5	Shillong	2	-	2	8
6	Tura	1	-	1	2
	TOTAL:	5	5	7	18

III North East-II Telecom Circle

(1) 5EKBCs/FTCs provided at Itanagar, Dimapur and Kohima

(2) Bureau Fax and other terminal equipment *i.e.* SFMSS/EKBC Ports, ETPs/FTs etc. provided as under:—

S.No.	Name of District	No. of SFMSS Ports	No. of EKBC Ports	No. of B-Fax	No. of ETPs/ FTs	No. of Internet PCOs	EKB
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Itanagar (Papumpare)	-	1	1	2	-	-
2	West Kamang	-	-	-	-	-	1
3	East Siang	-	-	-	-	-	1
4	Dimapur	-	2	1	2	1	6
5	Kohima	-	2	1	2	-	6
6	Churchandpur	-	1	1	-	-	1
7	Imphal West	6	3	2	0	1	2
	TOTAL:	6	9	6	6	2	17

Abbreviations:-

SFMSS Store and Forward Message Switching System
EKBC Electronic Key Board Concentrator
B-FAX Bureau-Fax
ETP Electronic Teleprinter
FT Formatted Terminal
FTC Formatted Terminal Concentrator
EKB Electronic Key Board

Teledensity in rural areas

3112. SHRIMATI BIMBAR RAIKAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state: